

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-03 SCS-01 SCCT-01 AID-05 CCO-00

FBO-01 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02 NIC-01 NSC-07 SP-02

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2109

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 641

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE IN THESSALONIKI

REF: THESSALONIKI 639

1. PROTESTS AT THESS UNIV CONTINUED OCTOBER 7 WITH AFTERNOON MARCH THROUGH MAIN STREETS BY APPROX 400 STUDENTS. DEMONSTRATORS OCCUPYING CHEMISTRY BUILDING PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL) HAD REMAINED OVERNIGHT TO PROTEST VIOLATION OF CAMPUS BY POLICE, BUT LEFT TO JOIN MARCH. MARCHERS CARRIED PLACARDS SUCH AS "FORWARD TO POLITICAL AND SYNDICALISTIC FREEDOM", "STRUGGLE NOT BEGGING", AND "JUNTA OUT OF GYMNASIA". FURTHER MEETINGS TO DISCUSS STUDENT GRIEVANCES SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 8 IN "DEJUNTAIZATION HALL" HERE.

2. "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" FRONTPAGES PHOTOS OF STUDENT ALLEGEDLY INJURED IN OCTOBER 6 DEMONSTRATION AND OF OCCUPIED CHEMISTRY BUILDING. LATTER DRAPED WITH BANNERS READING "DEATH TO FASCISM AND IMPERIALISM", AND "PEOPLE DO NOT FORGET, ORGANIZE FOR VICTORY". "VORRAS" ALSO CARRIES STRONG FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL DECRYING "SPIRAL" OF STUDENT VIOLENCE. EDITORIAL

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CLAIMS THAT DEMOCRACY PRESENTLY BEING "UNDERMINED" BY SMALL

STUDENT MINORITY FOLLOWING "CHAOTIC IMPETUS OF MAOIST AND CHE GUEVARA SUBVERSIVES". ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT INCIDENTS OCCUR AT TIME OF POWER VACUUM HERE BEFORE APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTER FOR NORTHERN GREECE AND UNDER INEXPERIENCED NEW NOMARCH AND INTERIM MAYOR. AS RESULT, 700,000 CITIZENS "SUFFERING" AT HANDS OF LESS THAN 500 EXTREMISTS.

3. COMMENT: THESS POLICE CHIEF BRIG GEN STAVROPOULOS COMMENTED TO CONGEN LATE OCTOBER 7 THAT LOCAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS "OUT OF CONTROL" AND POLICE ON 24-HOUR DUTY. STAVROPOULOS, WHO CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE SLEPT FOR "48 HOURS", PERSONALLY SUPERVISED POLICE PROTECTION AT CONGEN FOR DEMONSTRATION OCTOBER 7 WHICH AGAIN FAILED TO MATERIALIZE. MEASURES INCLUDED 200-300 REINFORCEMENTS AROUND BUILDING AND FIRE TRUCK WITH WATER PUMP. POLICE CHIEF CLAIMED THESE NECESSARY TO DETER LARGE GROUP PLANNING "EPISODES AT CONGEN". NOTE: THIS FOURTH TIME IN PAST WEEK POLICE HAVE DISPATCHED HEAVY REINFORCEMENTS. CONGEN BELIEVES MEASURES REFLECT LOCAL POLICE INSECURITY IN PRESENT PERIOD, RATHER THAN ATTEMPT AT HARASSMENT.
JACKSON

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